

1905-035 Chancery Causes: Rebecca Lawson vs. John Lawson
Lee Co.

Poff, Wiseley

CA-Divorce

To the Hon. H. A. W. Skeen, Judge of the Circuit Court for the county of Lee:

Your oratrix, Rebecca Lawson, wife of John Lawson, would respectfully represent unto the court that she was married to the said John Lawson on the 18th day of June, 1897, and is now thirty-one (31) years of age, and during all that time she has been unto her said husband a faithful and devoted wife, and has borne him two two children, to-wit:

Nellie, now seven years of age; *James*, four years old, both of whom are now living with and supported by your complainant. Your oratrix avers that on the ---- day of -----, 1900, her said husband, without provocation or excuse, and against the humble entreaty of your oratrix, abandoned and deserted her and her said children and has ever since refused either to live with your oratrix or to furnish her or her said children with the means of support, by reason whereof your oratrix has been forced to provide a support for herself and said children by her own labor.

Complainant alleges that her said husband, who is now a resident of Lee county, Virginia, is intemperate and grossly profane in his habits; that your oratrix was born and reared and has always resided in Virginia; that she last cohabited with her said husband in Wise county, Virginia, and that she is now and has been for the last five years domiciled in Scott county, Virginia.

In consideration whereof, and in as much as your oratrix is remediless save in a court of equity, she prays that the said John Lawson may be made a party defendant to this bill and required to answer the same, but not on oath, that being expressly hereby waived; that your oratrix may be granted a divorce a vinculo matrimonii from the said John Lawson; that your oratrix be awarded the care and custody of her said children; that she be afforded all such other and general relief as her cause merits and to equity may seem meet. And your oratrix will ever pray.

S. W. Coleman, p. q.

vs.

}

GEO. M. EDMONDS,

Attorney-at-Law,

GATE CITY, - - VIRGINIA.

Everett Wadley Co., Stationers and Printers, Richmond, Va.

Costs;

Clark \$3.30

Tax 1.50

Shff 1.00

Comm. 75

Wils. 1.00

Atty. 15.00

\$22.55

Rebecca Lawson

v Bill

John Lawson

Filed Oct. 11th 1908.
J. H. Ewing
Clerk.

1908 - 2nd Oct Ruler
Bill filed Spw
executed.
" 1st Nov. Ruler
Cause set for
hearing.

1900 to 1910

Rebecca Lawson)
)
 v.) In Chancery.
)
 John Lawson)

This cause came on this day to be heard upon the complainant's bill and the depositions filed in the cause. And it appearing to the court that the defendant has been regularly served with process, the cause regularly matured at rules and set for hearing, and the defendant having failed to either appear, plead, demur or answer, it is therefore adjudged, ordered and decreed that the bonds of matrimony heretofore existing between John Lawson, the defendant, and Rebecca Lawson, the complainant, be and the same are hereby dissolved.

And it is further ordered and decreed that the complainant have, and she is hereby awarded the care and custody of her two minor children, to-wit: *Nellie* Lawson and *James* Lawson, and that the complainant recover of the defendant her costs in this behalf expended.

And it further appearing to the court that there is nothing further necessary to be done in the cause it is ordered stricken from the docket, with leave to either of the parties to have the same reinstated upon motion.

Rebecca Lawson

v.)

Decree.

John Lawson

Entered in C.C.B.
No 8 Page 90-

Enter this decree

H. E. W. Skene

Decr. //, 1905.

To John Lawson:

You are hereby notified, that on the 7th. day of December, 1905, between the hours of 9 o'clock A. M. and 6 o'clock P. M. of that day, at the law office of S. W. Coleman in Gate City, Va., I shall proceed to take the deposition of William Jones and others, to be read as evidence in my behalf in a certain suit in chancery, depending in the Circuit Court of Lee county, Virginia, wherein I am complainant and you are defendant; and if from any cause the taking of the said depositions be not commenced, or if commenced, be not concluded on that day, the taking thereof will be adjourned from day to day or from time to time, at the same place and between the same hours, until the same shall be completed.

Truly yours,

Rebecca Lawson,
By Counsel.

Rebecca Lumsden

5-11-11

John Lumsden

received by
Deliverm a true
copy of the
within to
John Lumsden
this Nov. 22 1905
J. F. Hughes G.D.
for Wm. Ball
L. L. C.

Please send me
my fifty cts.

The depositions of Rebecca Lawson & others, taken before me, S. H. Bond, a Commissioner in Chancery for the Circuit Court of Scott County, Va., at the office of S. W. Coleman in Gate City, Va., on the 7th day of Decr, 1905, between the hours of 9 A.M. & 6 P.M., in pursuance of notice hereto annexed, to be read as evidence in behalf of Rebecca Lawson in a certain suit in Chancery, depending in the Circuit Court of Lee County, Va., wherein Rebecca Lawson is Complainant & John Lawson is defendant.

Present, S. W. Coleman, Atty. for Compl.

J. H. Poff, a lawful witness being first duly sworn deposes & says:

Q¹ Please state your age, residence & occupation?

32 years old, am a farmer and reside in Scott County

Q² Are you acquainted with John & Rebecca Lawson, the parties to this suit?

Ans - I am

Q³ Was Rebecca Lawson married to John Lawson, if so, please state whether or

Was you were present at their marriage, and how long it has been & whether or not they afterwards lived together as man & wife?

Ans. They were married, I was present at the marriage; it has been about eight years or a little more; they afterwards lived together or more or less they lived together about three years.

Q⁴ Are John & Rebecca Lawan now living together as man & wife, if not, please state if you know, why they are not?

Ans. They are not; he took a wife with a white woman and kept with her; they have not lived together for about five years.

Q⁵ Where did John & Rebecca Lawan last live together as man & wife?

Ans. In Wise County, Virginia.

Q⁶ State, if you know, where John Lawan now resides?

Ans. In Lee County, Va.

Q⁷ Where does Rebecca Lawan now reside?

Ans. In Scott County, Va.

Q⁸ How long has Rebecca Lawson been a resident of Scott County, Va?

Ans- She has been living here over five years since her husband's death.

Q⁹ Is John Lawson a man who is moral & temperate in his habits?

Ans- He drinks and behaves badly. And further this deponent says not.
J. H. ^{his} Poff

Elizabeth Wisley another lawful witness being first duly sworn deposes & says:

Q¹⁰ Please state your age, residence & ~~occupation~~?

Ans- Twenty five years old; reside in Scott County.

Q¹¹ Please state whether or not you were present

Q¹² Are you acquainted with John & Rebecca Lawson, the parties to this suit?

Ans- Yes, Sir.

Q¹³ Please state whether or not you were present at the marriage of John & Rebecca Lawson, & if so, how

long it has been since they were married?

I am present; it has a month or two more than eight years -

Q⁴ Did they afterwards, that is, after their marriage, live together as man & wife?

They did -

Q⁵ Are they now living together as man & wife, if not, why not?

They are not; he took another woman and left her;

Q⁶ How long has it been since John Lawson deserted his wife, Rebecca Lawson?

Ans. A little more than six years -

Q⁷ Have they at any time since resided together as man & wife?

Ans. No, Sir -

Q⁸ Where did Rebecca & John Lawson live at the time of & for one year prior to the institution of this suit?

Ans. She lived in Pratt Co. Mo. & he in La Crosse Co.

Q⁹ Is John Lawson a man who is moral

Ans

& temperate in his habits?

He gets drunk and carries
a round compass -

And further this defendant saith
not.

Elyotuk ^{his} X Wiley
Mat

Rebecca Lawson, the complainant, be-
ing first duly sworn, deposes & says:

Q¹ Please state your age & residence?

Thirty years and am residing in
Scott County -

Q² Are you the wife of John Lawson,
& the complainant in this suit?

Ans.

Yes, Sir -

Q³ How long since you were mar-
ried to John Lawson?

Ans.

About eight years or a little
over -

Q⁴ Did you & John Lawson after your
marriage live together as man &
wife? If so, for how long?

Ans. - We did for about three years.

Q⁵ - Are you & your husband now liv-
ing together as man & wife, if not,
why not?

Ans.

We are not. He took up with
an other woman or kept one.

Q⁶ How long has it been since he took up with another woman & left you?

Ans- Five years

Q⁷ Have you & John Swann at any time since he left you lived together as man & wife?

Ans- No, Sir-

Q⁸ Were you always kind & considerate towards your husband, or did you give him any cause to desert you?

I was always kind to him and treated him right - & gave him no cause to desert me -

Q⁸ Where did you & John Swann live together as man & wife?

Ans- In Wise County, Va.

Q⁹ At the time of & for one year prior to the institution of this suit where did you & John Swann live?

Ans- He lived in Lu County, Va and I in Scott County, Va -

Q¹⁰ How long have you been a resident of this state?

Ans- Since I was about four years old -

Q¹¹ Have you any children by your marriage with John Swann, if so, please

state how many & give their names
& with whom they have been living
since your husband deserted you, &
who has supported them.

Answer I have two children by him
The oldest will be seven years
next May, his name is James
The youngest will be five next
Feb, her name is Mary Elizabeth
The children have been with me
since my husband left and
and I have worked and supported
them. I lived with my
brother for some

Q² Is your husband a moral & temperate
man in his habits?

Yes, Sir, he is a temperate
man.

Q³ At the time or before he left you
did he do or say anything which led
you to believe that he was going to de-
sert you, if so, please state what he
said or did?

He threatened to leave me
and told me he went to his
brother off every thing he
had, including household

Jones - He kept me in
a helpless condition -
And further this deposit with out.
Rebecca ^{his} ~~Larson~~
~~husb~~

Cost J. H. Poff and	.50
Elizabeth Whisler	.50
Commission - 2 lbs	.75
	<hr/> 1.25

Scott County Va. is:-
I, A. H. Burr, a Commissioner
in charge for the Census Bureau
for the County of Scott in the
State of Virginia, do hereby
that J. H. Poff, Elizabeth
Whisler and Rebecca Larson
whose names are signed to
the foregoing deposition, depose,
and swear and test that the
above is true.

Given under my hand
This Dec. 7, 1905.

A. H. Burr,
Commissioner in charge -

Rebecca Lumsden
vs { Depositions
}

John Lumsden

Filed Dec. 8, 1905.

H.C.V. Ewing, clk.

The Commonwealth of Virginia,

To the Sheriff of the County of Lee, Greeting:

WE COMMAND YOU, That you summon

John Lawson

to appear at the Clerk's office of the Circuit Court of the County of Lee, at rules to be held for the said court, on
the *3rd* Monday in *October*, 190*5*, to answer a bill in chancery exhibited against *him*
in our said Court by Rebecca Lawson

And have then there this writ. Witness, H. C. T. EWING, Clerk of our said Court, at the court-house, the *7th*
day of *October*, 190*5*, and 1*30*, year of the Commonwealth.

A Copy, Teste:

H. C. T. Ewing, Clerk.

_____, Clerk.

Rebecca Lawson

VS

SUBPOENA
IN
CHANCERY.

John Lawson

S. H. Coleman p. q

To 2nd 11 October Rules.

Lee Circuit Court.
1903

Executed by delivering
a copy of the within
Subpoena to John Lawson
This Oct 10, 1903

W. D. Owens D.S.
For P. M. Ball S. H. C.